

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /056 W
-----141455Z 033514 /44

R 141154Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5778
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGWERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY ROME
USCINCEUR FOR POLAND
USNAVEUR FOR POLAD
CINCSOUTH FOR POLAD

S E C R E T TUNIS 1061

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR TS MO AG LY
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ON TUNISIAN-MAGHREB RELATIONS

1. IN THE TWO TELEGRAMS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING (TUNIS 1059 AND 1060) I HAVE REPORTED FOREIGN MINISTER'S CURRENT VIEWS ON US-TUNISIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND CHATTY'S IMPRESSIONS ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTION WEARING HIS ARAB LEAGUE CHAIRMAN'S HAT. IN OUR HOUR-LONG TALK FEBRUARY 12 I ALSO ASKED HIM TO COMMENT ON GOT'S VIEW OF ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER STATES OF MAGHREB. HE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. MOROCCO: RELATIONS ARE EXCELLENT. AFTER GOT
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GOT OUT IN FRONT OVER WESTERN SAHARA QUTTWOV AND

WAS CONFRONTED WITH STRONG ADVERSE ALGERIAN REACTION, GOT PULLED BACK, WITHOUT HOWEVER RETRACTING ITS STAND. THIS WAS EXPLAINED TO MOROCCANS WHO, ACCORDING TO CHATTY, SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD. ON THE WHOLE, FONMIN S T, GOT WAS SATISFIED WITH WAY SAHARAN QUESTION HAD EVOLVED

AND WITH TUNISIA'S WISDOM IN RECOGNIZING ITS UNCHARACTERISTIC OVER-REACTION (ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT PUT IT EXACTLY THAT WAY) TO A NON-VITAL AFFAIR AND THEN HEADING FOR COVER.

3. ALGERIA: COLDNESS WHICH CHARACTERIZED ALGERIAN-TUNISIAN RELATIONS OVER PAST YEAR THAWED RECENTLY. THREE-DAY VISIT TO TUNIS BY FOMMIN BOUDEFLEK LAST WEEK HAD MARKED BY GREAT CORDIALITY. BOUDEFLEK'S VISIT, HE STRESSED HAD BEEN ENTIRELY AT ALGERIAN INITIATIVE AND ON SHORTEST NOTICE WHICH PLEASED HIM IMMENSELY. MANY HOURS OF RELAXED TALKS WITH BOUDEFLEK PERMITTED EACH SIDE TO ADMIT MISTAKES HAD BEEN MADE BY BOTH AND BOTH AGREED ON NEED FOR MORE INTENSIVE HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS. TUNISIANS HAD PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZED THEIR CONCERN OVER QADHAFI'S UNPREDICTABILITY AND WHAT THEY SEE AS HIS PENCHANT FOR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF STRESSES AND STRAINS IN TUNISIAN-ALGERIAN RELATIONS TO START MAKING LIFE UNCOMFORTABLE FOR BOTH. BOTH SIDES THOUGHT THEY SAW FAINT SIGNS THAT QADHAFI IS MATURING AFTER SO MANY FAILED VENTURES BEYOND HIS BORDERS.

4. LIBYA: SINCE BOTH SEE THE QADHAFI MENACE TO ITS SECURITY IN TERMS OF EVER GREATER NEED FOR US COOPERATION IN FIELD OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE, I HAVE COVERED LIBYAN-TUNISIAN ASPECTS OF OUR TALK IN TUNIS 1059, SENT TO ALL ADDRESSEES.
MULCAHY

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Sent Date: 14-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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